

**Senior Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, August 16, 2011  
Town Hall, Old Town Road  
10:30 a.m.**

Present: Chair Gail Pierce, Dorothy Graham, Linda Spak, Sandra Kelly, Janet Merritt, and Mimi Leveille. Marguerite Donnelly, Betsy Theve and Betsey DeMaggio were absent. Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes was present for the recording of minutes.

Gail Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Approve Minutes of July 19, 2011 Meeting**

Ms. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of July 19, 2011. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion and it carried.

5 Ayes (Pierce, Merritt, Graham, Kelly, Leveille)    0 Nays  
4 Absent (DeMaggio, Donnelly, Spak, Theve)

Ms. Spak was not yet present for the vote.

**Dialogue with Meredith McAloon**

Meredith McAloon, manager of the Neptune House was present and discussed issues regarding public use of the Neptune pool. She explained that the pool was a private pool and she and the Neptune Owners Association try to work with the Recreation Department to accommodate programs. She further explained that she does not want to put the Neptune House in a situation where their pool license was in jeopardy or they carried any liability for outside activities. She also stated that she would be willing to support the installation of pool stairs of an appropriate size, but the request would need to be approved by the board of the homeowner's association.

Ms. Merritt stated that she would like to see a formal agreement with the Neptune House that protects the Neptune House owners and allows community use of the pool.

**Status of Box Holder Mailing**

It was noted that the box holder mailing of the BI Bulletin Board announcement was ready to go and would be mailed out this week.

**Review B I Times article "U.S. Census: Island is aging"**

It was noted that the 2010 US Census has found that the Block Island elderly population is increasing considerably and the Town budget should proportionately reflect fund allocations to support the aging population.

**Monthly Activities Committee Suggestions**

Ms. Pierce noted that the Monthly Activities Committee has yet to meet due to conflicting schedules. The following trips/activities were brainstormed: bowling; Theatre by the Sea; movie matinee; pottery painting; North Light/Southeast light tours; Gilbert Stuart Museum; Quonset Air Museum; Smith Castle; Hale House; Museum of Art and Culture; Babcock Park; Johnson and Wales University tour and lunch; apple orchard; cribbage tournament; RISD Museum; Antinium Library; Newport mansions.

Ms. Spak joined the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

The following trips were tentatively planned:

- September - Roger Williams Park Zoo
- October - Bowling trip with lunch
- November - Movie trip with lunch
- December - Newport Mansion tour

### **How to proceed with” Restaurants with Seniors Discounts” list**

Ms. Spak presented a list of corporations that offer senior discounts. It was decided to distribute the list, with a disclaimer regarding accuracy, through the BI Bulletin Board.

### **Update on Activities:**

#### Block Island Bulletin Board

There are about 50 participants currently signed up with the Block Island Bulletin Board. The informational mailing will go out this week.

#### Swimming Pool

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

#### FISH – Reorganize

Ms. Pierce reported that she was still looking for another coordinator to head up FISH and would advertise through the BI Bulletin Board soon.

#### Soup Group

Ms. Pierce reported that Soup Group was running well and they have instituted door prizes at each lunch.

### **Review Information Pertaining to Tax Exemption**

Ms. Kelly reported that she has done a lot of leg work, without much luck, trying to come up with pertinent income data for island seniors to evaluate the need and impact of an increase to the salary eligibility for the low income senior tax exemption. She noted that according to the Federal Reserve there are 54 households on Block Island with an income under \$35,000, but there are no demographics regarding this population.

It was decided to hold a request to increase the salary eligibility for a later date, and to educate the senior population about the current tax exemption.

Ms. Leveille left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

### **Correspondence**

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Merritt will review the Senior Moments brochure and update accordingly.

### **Public Input**

There was no public input.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

The date for the next meeting was discussed. The meeting date was changed to Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Pierce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. Ms. Kelly seconded with all in favor.

Millie McGinnes  
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: